

E. Organizations Providing Topic-Specific or Group-Specific Civil Legal Assistance

The following organizations specialize in a particular area of the law (like landlord/tenant or consumer) or serve a particular type of client (like people with HIV/AIDS or immigrants). Each organization makes its own choices about the types of cases it handles and its eligibility requirements, and these can change over time.

1. AIDS/HIV

AIDS Action Committee

294 Washington Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
617-437-6200
617-437-1394 (TTY)

HIV Hotline: 800-235-2331/617-437-1672 (TTY)
HEP-C Hotline: 888-443-4372/617-437-1672 (TTY)

E-mail/web: www.aac.org

Service Area: Greater Boston

Cases Handled:

- Estate planning, guardianship, bankruptcy
- Advice on applying for public benefits and health coverage
- Social services for people with HIV/AIDS

Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center AIDS Law Clinic

(Formerly known as Legal Services Center)
122 Boylston Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-390-2500
617-522-0715 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinica/lsc

Cases Handled:

- General civil legal services for people with HIV/AIDS
- Bankruptcy, estate planning, wills and trusts

2. ARTISTS

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, Inc.

249A Street, Studio 14, Boston, MA 02210
617-350-7600 or 1-800-864-0476
617-350-7610 (fax)
617-350-7600 (TTY)

E-mail/web: www.mail@vlama.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Handles arts-related legal problems for artists and arts organizations, including contracts, copyright law, trademark, first amendment, not-for-profit corporations, consignment of fine art, live/work space

3. CHILDREN

Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

298 Union Street, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 710, Lynn, MA 01903
781-581-1977 or 888-KIDLAW8

Service Area: Essex, Middlesex and N. Suffolk Counties

Cases Handled:

- DSS custody
- Guardianship
- School and special education issues
- Abuse and neglect
- CHINS
- Mental health
- Delinquency
- SSI for disabled children

Disability Law Center Educational Services for Institutionalized Youth Project

11 Beacon Street, Suite 925, Boston, MA 02108
617-723-8455

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Access to education for youth in mental health, DYS and correctional facilities

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

100 Boylston Street, Suite 200, Boston, MA 02116-4610
617-357-8431 ext 224 or 0

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Special education and school expulsion and suspension

4. FAMILY LAW

Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.

P.O. Box 180019, Boston, MA 02118
800-992-2600 or Safelink at 877-785-2020
Both lines are accessible 24 hours a day.

617-521-0146 (Legal Department)
877-521-2601 (TTY)

E-mail/web: www.casamyrna.org

Service Area: Greater Boston

Cases Handled: 209A and family law issues for victims of domestic violence

Child Support Enforcement Division/Massachusetts Department of Revenue

800-332-2733
800-255-5587 (TDD)

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Obtaining and enforcing child support orders and establishing paternity for custodial parents of minor children

Help for Abused Women and Their Children (HAWC)

27 Congress Street, Salem, MA 01970
978-744-8552
978-745-6886 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.helpabusedwomen.org

Cases Handled: Referrals to Neighborhood Legal Services panel and to HAWC's own panel for victims of domestic violence in divorce, custody and abuse cases

Independence House

160 Bassett Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601
508-771-6507
508-778-0143 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.indhouse@indhouse.net

Cases Handled: Family law cases for victims of domestic violence

New England Learning Center for Women in Transition

10 Park Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-0871
413-772-2743 (fax)
413-772-0806 (hotline)

Cases Handled: Legal, housing and welfare advocacy for victims of domestic violence

RESPOND, Inc.

P.O. Box 555, Somerville, MA 02143
617-623-5900
781-324-2221

617-623-4377 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.respondinc.org; info@respondinc.org

Cases Handled: Paralegals provide legal and social service advocacy for victims of domestic violence

Women's Bar Foundation/Family Law Project for Battered Women

18 Tremont Street, Suite 730, Boston, MA 02108

617-589-9420

617-973-6663 (fax)

Service Area: Statewide, including non-residents of Massachusetts who have family law issues in Massachusetts

Cases Handled: Referrals and/or limited legal advice or assistance for victims of domestic violence in family law matters, including restraining orders, divorce, custody, support, modifications, contempt and visitation

Women's Crisis Center, Inc.

2 Harris Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

978-465-0999

978-465-7158 (fax)

5 Market Sq., Amesbury, MA 01913

978-834-9710

978-834-0825 (fax)

Service Area: Northern Essex County

Cases Handled: Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project provides representation to victims of domestic violence in contested family law and restraining order cases

Y.M.C.A./Daybreak Resources for Women & Children

P.O. Box 3093, Worcester, MA 01613-3093

508-755-5371

508-767-1301 (fax)

Cases Handled: Advocates provide assistance to victims of domestic violence in 209A restraining order cases.

5. CIVIL RIGHTS/CIVIL LIBERTIES

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Massachusetts (ACLUFM)

99 Chauncy Street, Suite 310, Boston, MA 02111

617-482-3170

617-451-0009 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.aclu-mass.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Civil rights and civil liberties, including issues such as free speech, privacy, due process, reproductive rights, police misconduct

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (LCCRUL) of the Boston Bar Assn.

294 Washington Street, Suite 443, Boston, MA 02108
617-482-1145
617-482-4392 (fax)

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Legal assistance to people whose rights may have been violated based on ethnic or racial discrimination

Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.

8 Winter Street, Suite 402, Boston, MA 02108
617-482-8686
617-482-9111 (fax)

E-mail/web: Massachusetts@appleseeds.net

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Matters involving equal access to educational, economic and health services and equal access to the courts

6. CONSUMER

Attorney General's Elder Hotline

888-AG-ELDER (888-243-5337)

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information and referrals for elders regarding health insurance, Medicare, telemarketing fraud and home improvement scams

Attorney General's Insurance Hotline

888-830-6277

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information regarding health, dental, disability, death, property, travel and credit insurance, including referrals to government agencies and mediation where appropriate

Attorney General's Wage Hotline

617-727-3465

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Investigates and resolves cases related to wage and hour violations and minimum wage violations

Bentley Consumer Action Line

800-273-9494

781-891-2153 (Out of State)

Service Area: Attleboro, Brockton, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton, Mansfield, Norton, Raynham, Taunton and West Bridgewater

Cases Handled: Help negotiating a settlement in consumer disputes

Consumer Credit Counseling Service

800-208-2227

Boston: 617-426-6644

Springfield: 413-788-6106

Worcester: 508-795-1444

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Advice, referral and counseling on debt management, mortgage defaults and pre-purchase housing counseling

Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General

617-727-8400

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Investigates and resolves complaints regarding consumer fraud

Massachusetts Executive Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation

617-973-8700 or 888-283-3757

E-mail/web: www.state.ma.us/consumer

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information and self-help material on lemon law, tenant's rights and other consumer issues; lemon law arbitration; home improvement contractor arbitration; wireless mediation; Do Not Call Registry

Small Claims Advisory Service

617-467-5690 (main line)

E-mail/web: www.masssmallclaims.org; scas@hcs.harvard.edu

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information and assistance on small claims cases.

State Government Citizen Information Service

617-727-7030 or 800-382-6090

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information on consumer affairs, employment, environment, legislation, taxes, how to reach elected officials, starting a small business, obtaining a license

7. DISABILITIES/MENTAL HEALTH/HEALTH

Center for Public Representation

246 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02160

617-965-0776

617-928-0971 (fax)

22 Green Street, Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-6265

413-586-5711 (fax)

413-586-6024 (TTY)

E-mail/web: www.centerforpublicrep.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Inpatient and outpatient mental health and retardation services, conditions of confinement, discrimination, access to disability support services, civil commitment, nursing facilities, juvenile justice and children's mental health services

Department of Justice-ADA Information Line

800-514-0301

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information on how to file complaints under the Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability Advocacy Clinic

Suffolk University Law School

120 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108

617-573-8100

Service Area: Middlesex and Suffolk counties

Cases Handled: Disability and health law; social security, MassHealth, special education, discrimination

Disability Law Center

Boston: 617-723-8455, 800-872-9992, 800-381-0577
617-227-9464 (TTY)

Northampton: 413-584-6337 or 800-222-5619
413-582-6919 (TTY)

E-mail/web: mail@dlc-ma.org; www.dlc-ma.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information and referral, advice and legal representation for people with disabilities who have disability-related legal issues

Executive Office of Elder Affairs

800-AGE-INFO (800/243/4636)
800-872-0166 (TTY)

E-mail/web: www.800ageinfo.com

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Counseling and information on health insurance for Medicare beneficiaries

Health Care for All

Help line: 800-272-4232
617-350-7279
617-350-0974 (TTY)
617-451-5838 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.hcfama.org

Service Area: Nationwide

Cases Handled: Advice on health care options and health insurance rights, information and referrals for appropriate health care programs

Health Law Advocates

617-338-5241
E-mail/web: www.hla-inc.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Legal advice and representation for legal problems with physical and mental health care and/or health insurance. Affiliated with Health Care for All

Medicare Advocacy Project (MAP)

800-323-3205

Service Area: Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk counties

Cases Handled: Medicare issues for Medicare-eligible clients

Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee

617-338-2345, ext. 20 or 800-342-9092

617-338-2347 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.state.ma.us/mhlac

Cases Handled: Advice, referrals and direct representation regarding treatment issues at facilities; insurance issues; custody, visitation, guardianship and paternity; public disability benefits; housing; legal rights of mental health patients and their families

Statewide Head Injury Program

617-204-3852 or 800-223-2559

E-mail/web: www.mass.gov/mrc/ship/

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information and referral for Massachusetts residents with documented traumatic brain injury and their families

8. DISCRIMINATION

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)

30 Winter Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02108

617-426-1350 or 800-455-GLAD

E-mail/web: www.glad.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Legal information and referrals to private attorney; representation on civil rights issues related to sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS, gender identity and expression

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)

1 Ashburton Place, Sixth Floor, Room 601, Boston, MA 02108

617-994-6000

E-mail/web: www.state.ma.us/mcad

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Investigates complaints of discrimination in credit, housing, public accommodation, employment and education.

9. ELDERS

Attorney General's Elder-Hotline

888-AG-ELDER (888-243-5337)

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Information and referrals on health insurance, Medicare, telemarketing fraud and home improvement scams

Executive Office of Elder Affairs

Elder Abuse Hotline: 800-922-2275

Nationwide: 800-243-4636

Boston: 617-727-7750

800-872-0166 (TTY)

E-mail/web: www.ma-elderaffairs.org

Service Area: Nationwide

Cases Handled: Information on prescription drug assistance, care giving, community resources, homecare, housing/assisted living facilities, legal issues

Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders (H.O.M.E.)

617-451-0680

800-583-5337

E-mail/web: www.home-ma.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Provides counseling on financial and homeownership issues for successful aging in place to low and moderate income homeowners.

Medicare Advocacy Project

800-323-3205

See listing in Disability section

Elder Abuse Reporting

Elder Protective Services: 800-922-2275

ETHOS: 617-522-6700 (please ask for Elders at Risk)

Somerville/Cambridge Area Elder Services: 617-628-2601

Service Area: Statewide

10. HOUSING

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee

617-868-2900

Service Area: Cambridge Residents Only

Cases Handled: Representation for public housing tenants. General advice and assistance with paperwork for tenants

Community Action Agency of Somerville

66-70 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143

617-623-7370

Service Area: Somerville only

Cases Handled: Helps tenants with eviction defense

Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders (H.O.M.E.)

617-451-0680

800-583-5337

See listing in Elders section.

Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness

16 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

617-723-0885

617-778-1981 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.lawyersclearinghouse.org

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Legal services to individual guests of the Pine Street Inn, St. Francis House and the Shattuck Shelter in Boston as well as a range of legal services for non-profit organizations

Mass Executive Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation

617-727-7780

See listing in Consumer section.

Somerville Community Corporation

617-776-5931

Service Area: Somerville only

Cases Handled: Housing search and mediation of landlord/tenant dispute

Tenant Advocacy Project

Austin Hall 009, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138
 617-495-4394
 617-496-2294 (fax)

Service Area: Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Braintree, Brighton, Brookline, Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea, Dorchester, Everett, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Roxbury, Somerville, South Boston, Stoneham, Waltham, Watertown, Winchester, Winthrop and Woburn

Cases Handled: General advice and representation for public housing tenants in evictions, application denials, reasonable accommodation requests, transfer denials, subsidy terminations for subsidies administered by housing authorities

11. IMMIGRATION**Catholic Charitable Bureau of Boston**

617-451-7979 (ask for Immigration Dept)

Service Area: Greater Boston area

Cases Handled: Immigration applications and representation in Immigration Court. Walk-in clinic for consultations and advice

Centro Presente

54 Essex Street, Cambridge, MA 02139
 617-497-9080

E-mail/web: www.cpresente.org

Cases Handled: Legal representation and referrals

International Institute of Boston

1 Milk Street, Boston, MA 02109
 617-695-9990

E-mail/web: www.iiboston.org

Cases Handled: Legal clinic for citizenship and permanent residence applications

12. PRISONERS' RIGHTS**Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (AIM)**

434 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 503, P.O. Box 180476, Boston, MA 02118
 617.536.0058
 617.536.0279 (fax)

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Provides legal assistance to women incarcerated at MCI Framingham and their children in custody, divorce, guardianship and Chapter 210 cases, living wills for women with HIV/AIDS

Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services (MCLS)

8 Winter Street, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02108

617.482.2773

617.451.6383 (fax)

617.482.4124 (collect)

800.882.1413 (WATS)

Service Area: Statewide

Cases Handled: Legal services in the areas of health and mental health care, guard-on-prisoner violence, physical conditions of confinement, and segregation and isolation for people in Massachusetts prisons and jails

13. TAXES

Bentley Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

781-891-2083

E-mail/web: www.ecampus.bentley.edu/dept/bslc.blitc.index.html

Service Area: Greater Boston and surrounding areas

Cases Handled: Advice, counseling and representation before the IRS for low income tax payers and tax payers with limited English proficiency

GBLS Income Tax Clinic Project

197 Friend Street, Boston, MA 02114

617-371-1234 or 800-323-3205

617-371-1228 (TTY)

617-371-1222 (fax)

E-mail/web: www.gbls.org

Service Area: See Greater Boston Legal Services

Cases Handled: Tax assistance and representation for low income taxpayers who are immigrant workers or have limited English proficiency